

In the Claims

1.-23. (cancelled)

24. (New) A remote upgrade method comprising:

receiving from a remote source, at a device including a flash memory, an indication of available update information from the remote source, the indication including a location and a file name of an updated flash image to replace a current flash image stored in the flash memory and utilized by the device;

setting, in response to receiving the indication, an upgrade indication variable in the device to indicate an updated flash image is available at the remote source;

downloading the updated flash image from the remote source to the flash memory;

setting, only if the downloading is completed, the upgrade indication variable in the device to indicate no updated flash image is available at the remote source; and

executing, by the device, a reboot process utilizing the updated flash image if the upgrade indication variable is set to indicate no updated flash image is available, otherwise utilizing the current flash image and repeating the downloading.

25. (New) The method of claim 24, wherein the location is an internet protocol (IP) address of the remote source.

26. (New) The method of claim 24, wherein an update indication variable having a value of zero indicates no updated flash image is available at the remote source.

27. (New) The method of claim 24 wherein an update indication variable having a non zero value indicates an updated flash image is available at the remote source.

28. (New) The method of claim 24, wherein the updated flash image is stored in read-only flash memory in the device.

29. (New) The method of claim 24, further comprising:
 authenticating the updated flash image to the device.

30. (New) The method of claim 29, wherein the authenticating is performed with a public – private key pair.

31. (New) The method of claim 24, wherein the current flash image includes processor boot instructions.

32. (New) The method of claim 31, wherein the updated flash image includes updated processor boot instructions.

33. (New) The method of claim 24, wherein the current flash image includes firmware utilized by the device.

34. (New) The method of claim 33, wherein the updated flash image includes updated firmware.